

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

We are sure that you are all aware the HM Government yesterday announced that we are moving from the contain phase to the delay phase of their strategy. As we said in our last letter, we will continue to follow advice from the Department for Education (DfE) and Public Health England (PHE).

The updated guidance introduces important changes that parents and school have to follow. These changes will create some disruption to our normal way of life, however, as was outlined yesterday they are important to ensure the safety of the public as a whole.

If your child has either:

- **a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)**
- **a new continuous cough**

then they should stay at home for seven days and avoid all but essential contact with others (self-isolation), to slow the spread of the infection. **This means that they should not be out of the house during this period.** You do not need to call NHS 111 to go into self-isolation. If symptoms worsen during home isolation, or are no better after 7 days, contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Practically, for us as a school, this will also mean that we will have to change the way that we deal with pupils who present with either of these symptoms whilst in school. If this happens, we will make contact with you and they will need to be collected from school quickly and then go into self-isolation for a period of seven days.

If your child is going to be absent from school can we ask you to continue to ring school. Please be specific about what is wrong with your son/daughter and if they are going to be absent for a seven day period (self isolation), due to the symptoms outlined above.

HM Government also changed their guidance around overseas school trips; this advice does not apply to trips within the UK, however, we will need to review risk assessments for trips and will keep those involved fully informed about these also.

In addition to the measures outlined above, we have also taken the decision as a school, that we are not going to take part in sports fixtures until further notice. This is our personal decision as a school to reduce contact between students from other schools

for non-essential activities and does not impact on PE lessons.

However, school remains open and the day to day operation of the school continues including supporting all young people, especially those preparing for the upcoming Sats period.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and ask for your understanding and compliance with the new measures announced yesterday, as we recognise that they may cause significant disruption to normal family life, but they are essential.

Finally, as this situation evolves we will continue to follow any updated advice and communicate this to you.

Yours faithfully,

Diane Lakey (Headteacher)